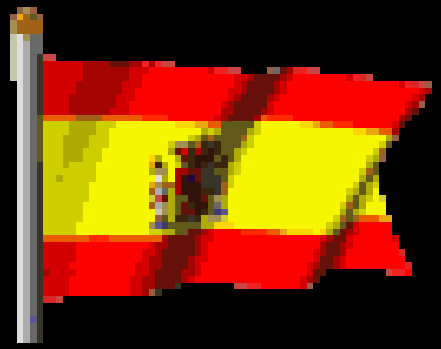
# TRAVELER'S BRIEFING



# SPAIN

# (Espana)

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# BACKGROUND

**Full Name: Kingdom of Spain**

**Capital: Madrid**

**Population: 39,167,744 (est)**

**Type of government: Parliamentary Mon**

**Head of government: PM Jose Maria Azn**

**Official language(s) Spanish, Catalan, G**

**Economy: Socialist- capitalist**

**Religions: Roman Catholic (99%)**

# TRAVEL

**Travel restrictions: None**

**International Airport: Madrid**

**Flights from Frankfurt: Span Air, Iberian Airlines, Lan Chile**

**Other methods of arrival: Ship/rail/road**

**U.S. Embassy address: Serrano 75, Madrid**
**Tel: 34-91-587-2200; FAX: 34-91-587-2277 E-mail**

**Transportation: Public transportation: Good.**

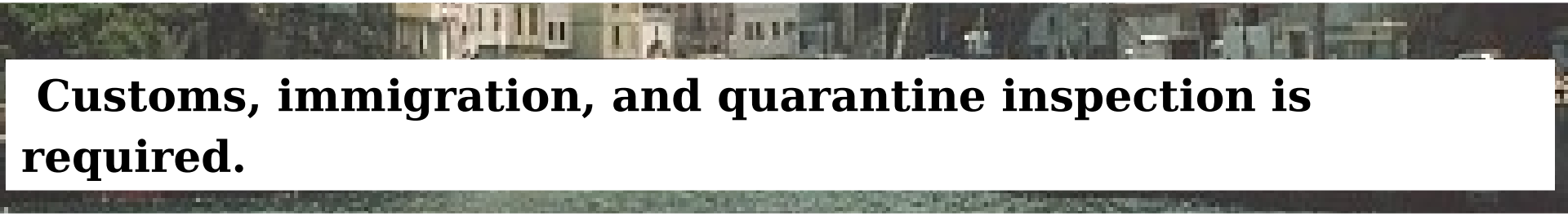
**Urban Roads/Maintenance: Excellent.**

**Rural roads/Maintenance: Good.**

**Availability of roadside assistance: Good. Public transportation in large cities is generally excellent. Taxi services are relatively inexpensive, although taxi drivers occasionally overcharge tourists coming from the airport.**

# ENTRY/EXIT

**Travel Necessities: Military personnel stationed in Europe on leave may enter without passport provided they have DoD identification card and leave orders. Other military personnel should possess a tourist passport if they are entering Spain via a commercial port. Civilian personnel (including dependents) require passports. A visa is required for stays of more than three months. Visitor may subsequently apply for an extension at a Spanish immigration office.**



**Customs, immigration, and quarantine inspection is required.**

**Duty-free entry for used personal effects: jewelry, typewriter, cameras (one movie and one still) if with the traveler, and reasonable amount of film. Personal effects subject to duty if price tags are not removed. Small amount of tobacco**

# HELPFUL HINTS

**Special restrictions: Approval will not be granted for any military or DoD civilian members on official duty to enter Spain directly from Gibraltar or depart Spain directly to Gibraltar. This restriction also pertains to US equipment or equipment being used by US forces. Visits of a tourist nature are excluded from this restriction. Military personnel on leave who are not permanently assigned within Spain are not authorized Base Exchange, Commissary, or CLASS VI privileges.**

**Clearance requests are processed only during normal duty hours 0800-1700L Mon-Fri, excluding US and Spanish holidays. Spanish holidays are as follows: 1, 6 Jan; 19 Mar; 9 Apr; 1, 2, 15 May; 25 Jul; 15 Aug; 12 Oct; 2, 9 Nov; and 8, 25 Dec. Holy Thursday and Good Friday are also celebrated on variable dates. Madrid celebrates two local holidays on**

# MONEY

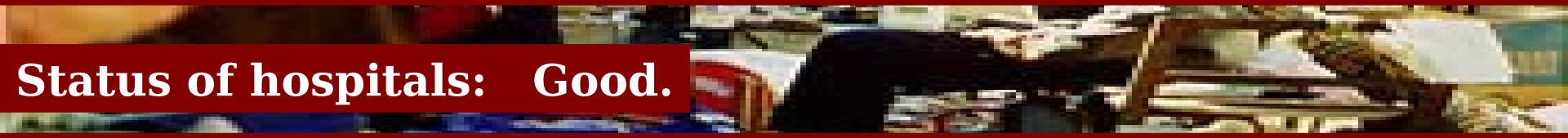
**Currency restrictions: Declare currency. There is no limit on import of foreign currencies; export is limited to the amount imported. Import of Bank of Spain notes is limited to 500,000 pesetas and export of 100,000 pesetas. Exchange at banks, hotels, military bases, and Amembassy. Recommend transients use ATM machines, which are widely available. Next alternative is to use travelers checks. Personal checks are not normally accepted.**

**Rate: Approximate: 172 Spanish Peseta for $1.**

# HEALTH

**Major threats: diarrhea, respiratory diseases, accidents, arthropod-borne diseases,  STDs, cold injuries, and industrial pollution.**
**Availability of medical services: Good.**

**Medical Insurance: May not apply in Spain.**



**Status of hospitals:  Good.**

**Health Precautions: None.**

**Immunizations: Hep A (recommended), Hep B (recommended), TB (recommended) MMR (recommended) and tetanus-disptheria boosters (recommended).**

# FORCE PROTECTION

**Country Clearance: Required for all military personnel traveling to Spain. You obtain this by going through your S3/G3 section. This must be done at least 30 days ahead of scheduled visit. DV visits will also be coordinated through G3/S3 channels.**

**Briefings: AT/FP level I brief from command's Level II trainer or equivalent.**

**Civil disorder in Spain is rare. Although a few small terrorist groups, including ETA (Basque separatists) and GRAPO (a Marxist group) are occasionally active, their efforts are primarily directed against police, military, and other Spanish targets. Americans have not been targets of these attacks. Wash fruits and vegetables well. Traffic in Madrid and Barcelona is faster-paced than in U.S. cities. Night driving on Fridays and Saturdays in urban areas may be dangerous due to drivers under the influence of alcohol. Night driving in isolated rural areas can be dangerous because of farm animals and poorly marked roads. Traffic is usually heavier in July and August, as well as during the Christmas and Easter**

# CRIME

**Criminal Activities: While most of Spain has a low rate of violent crime, the principal tourist areas are experiencing increasing crime directed against tourists. Madrid and Barcelona, in particular, have reported a growing incidence of muggings by gangs brandishing weapons and/or using force. Travelers using public transportation should be alert to the potential for muggings or pickpocketings. Roadside thieves posing as "Good Samaritans" to persons experiencing car and tire problems typically attempt to divert the driver's attention by pointing out a mechanical problem, and then steal items from the vehicle while the driver is looking elsewhere. Drivers should be extremely cautious about accepting help from anyone other than a uniformed Spanish police officer or Civil Guard. Travelers are urged to keep a photocopy of their passport, driver's license, train or airline tickets, and credit cards in a safe place to facilitate replacement should these**

**Spain is strict on: Drugs.**

**passport should be reported immediately to the local police and the nearest U.S. embassy or consulate.**

# WEATHER

http://cnn

# CLOTHING

**Uniform restrictions: Normally, US military personnel in Spain will wear civilian clothing, including while arriving at or departing from Spanish commercial airports. Exceptions for which the uniform may be worn, unless otherwise prescribed by base commanders, are:**

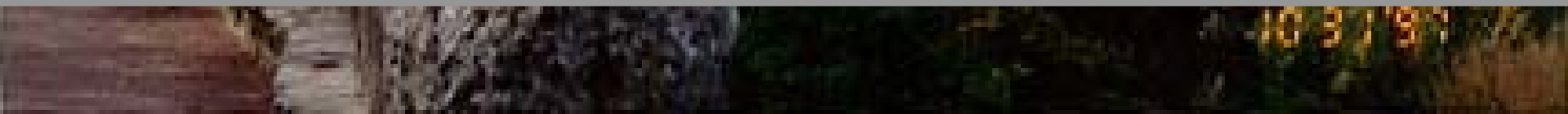
**a. While on duty at facilities provided for US use.**

**b. When making official visits to Spanish military installations.**

**c. When attending official Spanish functions.**

**d. When attending official US conferences and social events held outside military installations.**

**Clothing suitable for the Washington, DC area is recommended.**



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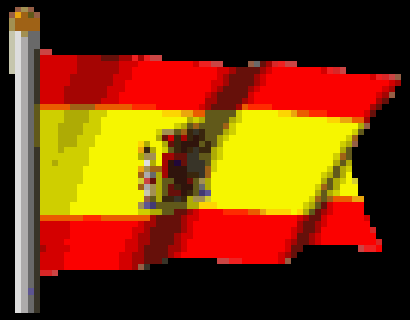

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